Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 2nd, 2025 9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 331-1773 | GoodSoilLutheran.org

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Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Ask an usher about hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

God chooses.	Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.		
	<u>Gathering</u>		
	The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.		
	Prelude and Welcome		
In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.	† Confession and Forgiveness Blessed be the holy Trinity, # one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. Amen. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection. Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen. God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.		
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In + Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

† Gathering Hymn: Rise, Shine You People (ELW 665) v. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
 Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
 Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
 God's new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt. Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

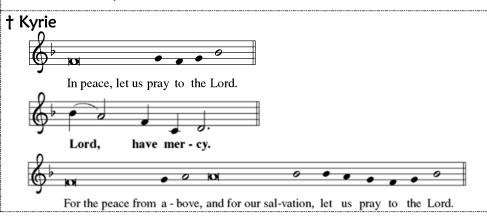
The assembly and presiding minister greet each other (scripture ref. 2 Corinthians)

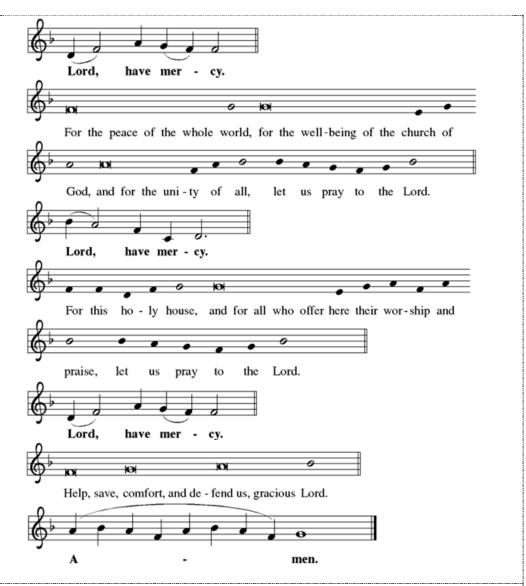
† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy." Chanting is an ancient practice of the church.





The Prayer of the Day highlights themes in the scripture we will hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

To put this reading into context:

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

Hear now the reading.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

- ² In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.
- ⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.
- ⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.
- ⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my

mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation.
We rise, if able, to anticipate Christ being revealed to us in the Living Word of the Gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter - nal life. Al-le-lu - ia.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel Reading: Luke 4:21-30

To put this reading into context:

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

The holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " 24 And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to

1	
h	he brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might nurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.
1	The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
C	Children's Sermon
S	ermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison
S	Silence for Reflection.
! !	Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:
so ro	How does the Holy Spirit speak the truth in love? What does that round like in the world today? How do people react? How do you react? How are we as people of faith called to respond when the Spirit's truth is spoken in love?
	Hymn of the Day: O Word of God Incarnate (ELW 514)
the Day is the assembly's response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.	O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.
2	The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine; and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through, mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.
3	Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold

to bear before the nations your true light, as of old; oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting

with God

† Prayers of the Church

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. A brief silence.

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond and support all who cry out in need. God of grace, receive our prayer.

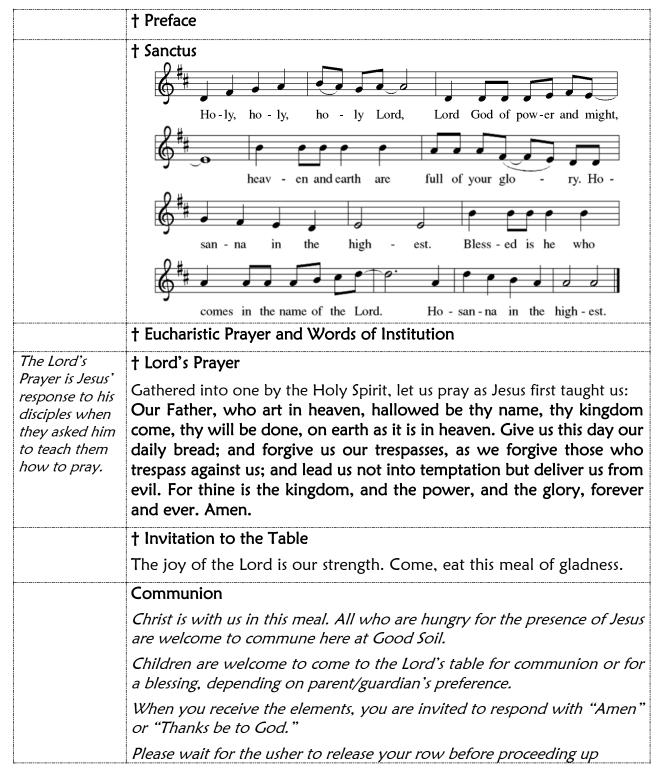
Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness,

or illness. Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. We especially pray for Helen, Fred, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Frank, Sara, Donna, family & friends of Madeline, Toni, Kate, Stan & Ann, Bill, Susan, Sally, Ruth, Rich, Kristina, Jeanette, Vicar Scott, Khams and his community in Manipur, all those affected by the wildfires, ... and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

A practice of the	I Danis a of the Danis
A practice of the ancient church, we share in	† Passing of the Peace
	The Peace of Christ be with you always.
Christ's peace &	And also with you.
recognize it in each other.	The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with
	you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or
	low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.
God entrusts us	The Meal
with everything we have. Our	God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
offering is one	Offering
way we give	God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, & your offering
thanks to God and support	makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today using the QR code or at https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran
the ministry of	Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link
the church.	will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.
The offering is	† Offering Hymn: One Bread, One Body (ELW 496) Refrain
brought forward to the	One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
altar to signify	one cup of blessing which we bless,
our gratitude	and we, though many throughout the earth,
for God's blessings.	we are one body in this one Lord.
Diessings.	Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939 Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
	† Offering Prayer
	God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance
	to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts,
	our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and
	generosity, now and always. Amen.
	† Great Thanksgiving
	The Lord be with you.
	And also with you.
	Lift up your hearts.
	We lift them to the Lord.
	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
	It is right to give our thanks and praise.



front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available on request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Communion Hymn: Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue (ELW 644)

- 1 Although I speak with angel's tongue, my faith, my knowledge all surpass, but have no love, my gifts are vain as clanging gong or blaring brass.
- 2 For love is patient, love is kind, and never vain with boasting pride; love bears all things, all things endures. All things must end; love will abide.
- 3 For now we peer at darkened glass; our visions end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now see: then we will see love face to face.
- 4 The gifts are many, the Body one, and into one are all baptized.
 Beloved, share one heart, one mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b.1951 Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God H bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

Through the	† Sending Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705) v. 1, 3, 4
sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r; crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
	3 Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
	4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore. Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, & ready to serve. Worship has	† Dismissal Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

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ended, & our service begins!

Postlude

Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Stan Zeager & Kim Wylie	Livestream: Jessica Berkshire			
Reader: William Eversole	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey			
Counters: Stan Zeager & Jessica Berkshire	Altar Care: Evan Paine			
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Communion Bread: Jessica Berkshire			
Cantor: Brenna Connor				

Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Feb 2, 2025

Especially in our prayers: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the NEO Synod, Helen Andrews, Fred Ayers, Gail Boggs, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Mary Lou Busby, Frank Dunaway, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, family and friends of Madeline Kelly, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Stan & Ann Layman, Bill Meyer, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Vicar Scott Wylie, Khams Zotal & his people in Manipur, and those affected by wildfires.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Becky Williamson (2/6), Kim Wylie (2/6), & Joyce Miller (2/8).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism this week: Hannah Alusheff (2/2) & Otto Mitterholzer (2/5).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in honor of the birthdays of Kim and Becky.

Last day to give: TODAY! California Wildfires Lutheran Disaster Response- We invite you to join many others in making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your generosity enables Lutheran Disaster Response to provide immediate relief to those in need, both in the aftermath of wildfires and throughout ongoing disaster responses. To donate online, please visit: https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran and select "Lutheran Disaster Response / Wild Fires" under Fund. You can also write a check with "Wildfires" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

California Wildfires Partner Church: As wildfires continue to devastate Southern California, the Northeastern Ohio Synod is inviting congregations to extend care and compassion to our neighbors in the Southwest California Synod. Through this effort, we hope to facilitate direct connections with congregations potentially affected by the wildfires, sharing messages of encouragement and support during this challenging time. Congregations in our synod have each been paired with a congregation in the Southwest California Synod. We encourage you to reach out with handwritten notes, cards, or creative gestures like artwork

or messages from your church community. This is an opportunity to remind these congregations that they are being thought of and prayed for here in Ohio as they face the long journey of recovery. Good Soil's assigned Partner Congregation is:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church 117 North 7th Street Santa Paula, CA 93060-2615



Bethesda Staff Partnership- Scan the QR code to the left to learn more about how Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran are exploring a potential staff partnership!

Souper Bowl of Caring Noisy Offering, 2/9 – What if the Super Bowl could also help feed hungry people in our community? That's the mission of the SOUPER Bowl of Caring! Once again, Good Soil will participate in this nationwide initiative and collect a "noisy offering" during worship on 2/9 to support the ministry of Rocky River and Lakewood Meals on Wheels. Please bring your change and dollars and pray for the counters this Sunday!

RIC Family Forum after church, 2/9 - Wondering how to talk to your kids or grandkids about LGBTQ issues? How do we help our kids if their friend gets bullied for their skin color? Join members of the RIC team for conversation around these questions and many others after church on Sunday Feb. 9th 11am-12:30pm! Bring your kiddos! Child care with fun crafts will be provided! We will have food for lunch while we discuss these important topics. And don't worry- we'll be done in PLENTY of time to avoid interfering with the Superbowl! Contact Mandy Forshey (amandaMforshey@gmail.com or text/call 216-640-6145) with any questions or if you are interested in attending. Head counts are always helpful!

Tower City Chorus Concert, 2/16 - At 11 am on Sun, Feb 16th, Tower City Chorus (who rehearse every week in the fellowship hall) will be having a barbershoppers concert here at Good Soil. Invite a friend & stay after worship that day for a fun time (concert is free and open to the public).

"Love in Action" Month w/ Bible Study, 2/23 - February has been designated as "Love in Action" month. Members are invited to bring in donations beginning Sunday February 2 thru February 22 for Trials for Hope. Suggested items: size 6 diapers, pull tab or easy open foods such as Ramen, tuna pouch or fruit cups, socks, multipurpose tarp, and travel size deodorant. Items will be collected in the coffee kitchen across from the lounge. Additionally, Pastor Marissa will be leading a "Faith Active in Love" Bible study after church on 2/23 about our Lutheran Commitment to putting our faith in action with civic engagement and service to our neighbors.



Sabbatical FAQ Sheet- Thank you for participating in the sabbatical questionnaire. The Renewal planning team along with Pastor Marissa has put together an FAQ sheet to summarize those responses and answer questions that were proposed. Scan the QR code to the left for that document and/or reference the bulletin board for a printed version.

Coffee Hour Fellowship- We need volunteer hosts to set-up, brew, and clean-up the coffee/tea service &/or bring snacks/baked goods. The Coffee Hour volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board by the lounge. Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) w/ questions.

MOW looking for Drivers- West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels is in search of drivers to deliver meals to our recipients, especially Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please contact 440-333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org for further info.

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken

on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule. Each vase costs \$20. You may also bring your own flowers instead of buying them through Good Soil, but please do still sign up.

Newsletter- Want to keep up with news at Good Soil or share the e-news with friends? Sign up or share our newsletter using the QR code or URL to the right: https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp



SUNDAY SCHOOL- Weekly Sunday faith formation for kids includes Learn & Grow and Experience & Grow opportunities during Sunday services. Additionally, kids will participate in special activities during planned monthly congregational events after worship. (Event updates will be announced, ongoing.) Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) with questions OR to join the weekly rotation of Learn & Grow teachers/helpers.

<u>Learn & Grow time during the worship service:</u> Coloring, crafts, Bible stories, sharing, light snack, etc., in the classrooms on the first floor during the sermon & reflection time for adults in the sanctuary. For children in Preschool/Kindergarten through 4th grade.

<u>Experience & Grow time participating in the worship service:</u> Participating in the worship experience, including sermon & reflection time. Access to special materials on the "Experience & Grow" stand in the Prayground. For Grade 5 through Confirmation.

Calendar of Events				
Date	Event	Time		
Sun, Feb 2	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
Sun, Feb 9	In-Person & Livestream Worship: "SOUPER Bowl of Caring"	9:30 am		
	noisy offering			
Sun, Feb 9	RIC Family Forum	10:30 am		
Sun, Feb 16	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
Sun Feb 16	Tower City Chorus Concert @ Good Soil	11:00 am		
Sun, Feb 23	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am		
Sun Feb 23	"Faith Active in Love" Bible Study	10:30 am		